



# Oakmont Park

## **WORKSHOP #2 MEETING REPORT February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

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*Workshop time: 7:00 to 9:00pm*

*Workshop location: Monroe Middle School cafeteria, 2800 Bailey Lane, Eugene*

*Workshop facilitator: Robin Hostick*

*Other elected officials and City staff present:*

*Johnny Medlin, Emily Proudfoot*

### **BACKGROUND**

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City of Eugene Parks Planning staff hosted the second of two neighborhood workshops to discuss upcoming improvements to Oakmont Park. Improvements to the park are funded by the Parks and Open Space bond measure passed in 1998 by area residents. The workshop facilitator briefly reviewed the previous discussion from workshop #1 (held in November 2001), including issues and opportunities for the park. This was followed by a presentation of the preliminary concept plan, and how it addresses issues and takes advantage of opportunities. The remainder of the workshop involved a general discussion of the concept plan by workshop participants. Goals for the evening included 1) providing information to the neighborhood; 2) reviewing the preliminary concept plan, and; 3) helping to establish priorities for park improvements. Over 20 neighbors and interested parties (excluding staff) attended the workshop.

### **ADVERTISEMENT**

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Advertisement for workshop #2 included the following:

- A postcard invitation was mailed on February 14<sup>th</sup> (12 days prior to the workshop) to all previous workshop participants, stakeholders and neighborhood leaders
- An article on the event was included in the Feb. 14 issue of the Council Newsletter
- A news release was distributed on February 22
- The workshop was included on the City Manager's Office public meetings calendar
- The workshop was included on the Parks and Open Space online schedule of events
- The workshop was announced in the City/Region section of the Register Guard preceding the event
- KMTR TV covered the event with an evening news spot

### **PRESENTATION**

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Meeting participants convened at the Monroe Middle School cafeteria. A brief introduction was given to the Parks and Open Space Plan and the role of Parks Planning in the development of



POS projects over the next few years.

An overview of the planning process was given. The results of the previous workshop were reviewed and general conclusions from the workshop #1 report were outlined. Based on these points, the preliminary concept plan for the park was presented. Emphasis was placed on how the plan proposes to fulfil or address issues and opportunities identified at the first workshop.

## **DISCUSSION**

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Participants asked questions, shared concerns and offered ideas around the concept plan. A list is provided following this summary for a more detailed report of participant comments and questions.

Continuing discussions from the first workshop, concerns were raised around traffic safety issues on Oakmont Way, including traffic speed, visibility, truck parking and crosswalks. Neighbors appeared to consistently support any measures that would slow traffic and increase pedestrian safety on the street. It was mentioned that the owner of property south of the park has expressed concerns that private parking areas will be used for park purposes, and that this should be taken into consideration when designing parking and crosswalks serving the park.

Also continuing a previous discussion, a few neighbors expressed concern about negative use of the park, and emphasized that something should be done to minimize the likelihood of such use. It was explained that the design would preserve sight lines through the park, and be kept as open as possible. Following principles of CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), entrance areas to the park would be clearly marked and “claimed” through signage and other visual cues, the park would be “activated” through amenities such as the playground, biking/waking paths and a jogging trail. It was also pointed out that the effectiveness of improvements and good design has been recently demonstrated in Irwin Park, a comparably sized neighborhood park where similar concerns have been raised, with very positive results.

A couple of neighbors expressed concerns about noise impacts from the basketball court. A number of measures to limit the impact of the basketball court were explained: an informal, half-court basketball facility is proposed (thereby limiting it’s attractiveness for competitive games, tournaments, etc.); the basketball court is located about 150 feet from the nearest property line; a berm 4 to 5 feet in height is proposed for the east side of the basketball court. The earth berm serves several functions, including helping to define the central park space, providing a seating area for neighborhood events (which could take place in the basketball court area) or for observing the playground and picnic area, and providing a sound barrier. Other neighbors voiced support for the basketball court.

In general, most participants appeared to agree that the concept plan met or exceeded their needs and expectations for the park.



The following is a general list of comments and ideas presented by participants during the workshop.

## COMMENTS

### *Traffic and Safety Issues*

- Consider **2-hr. parking** along Oakmont Way to limit long-term parking, truck parking, etc.
- Consider **raised crosswalks** if possible
- Consider a lower **speed limit** on Oakmont Way
- Work with the **transportation division** to determine what's possible for street safety

### *Design*

- There are lots of **trees** - looks like too many?
- Consider **power lines** along eastern edge of property when planting trees - EWEB trims
- Consider a fountain with a **bench** (seating edge)
- Fountain needs to **work!** Too many non-working fountains around
- Consider ease of **maintenance** when designing fountain
- What about water? Consider **recycling water** from fountain
- Play equipment
  - Should be like **functional art**
  - Should be **naturalistic**
  - Should be **safe**
  - Should be **good for kids (fun)**
- Provide **lights**, but as a **low priority**, and only bollard-type lights from Oakway to playground and picnic area (leave rest of park dark)
- Add **interpretive components** to the park (history of area, natural area restoration, etc.)

### *Use*

- Parks need **better enforcement** of rules
- Provide something in park for **all ages**
- Would rather have a park with an occasional transient than no park at all
- Leave the design to the experts

## HIGH PRIORITIES

- Trees
- Functional space for all ages
- Open space
- Basketball
- Berms
- Traffic and safety issues
- Crosswalks



## **FINDINGS**

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Based on positive feedback from workshop participants, the preliminary concept plan is considered substantially complete, with a few minor revisions and research items. Special emphasis should be placed on addressing traffic and safety concerns, and to providing the safest possible pedestrian crossing on Oakmont Way. Options should be explored to insure that parking is accessible to park users along Oakmont Way. Careful consideration should be given to insure that the park design minimizes attractiveness to negative uses such as illegal camping, drinking, etc., and that visibility and accessibility for enforcement are good. During design development, thematic elements should be considered to help give the park an identity - including types of materials, colors and iconography. Creative approaches to playground design should also be explored.

## **CLOSING**

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From the level of support for the current plan, it was suggested that a third workshop would not be necessary. The participant group agreed, and it was decided that a mail-out notification would be done showing any final design changes. A comment sheet would accompany the mail-out for suggestions and further comments. Participants were reminded that they or any other interested parties are welcome to discuss the project or submit comments at any time via phone, email or delivered mail.

## **ATTENDEES:**

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The following parties attended the workshop:

Denise Grieve  
Liz Sake  
Debbie Rauch  
Joyce Ostering  
Pat Kendall  
Marie DeZeeuw  
Alice Bolivar

Devan & Deanne Barger  
Rosemary Miranda  
Anna Romig  
Charles Biggs  
Steve Karth  
Michelle Cahill  
Gene Bonney

Roger & Armalene Haxby  
Arain & Erin Coutur  
Irene & Paul Bonney  
Mike Bothman  
Matt Scheibe  
Steve Greatwood  
Pat French

## **COMMENTS SHEETS**

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The following comments were recorded on comment sheets provided at the workshop and turned in to City staff at the end of the event.

Total comment sheets handed in at meeting: 9

Total comment sheets handed in following the meeting: 0

1. *Do you feel the proposed concept plan fulfills the needs of the neighborhood?*  
*Why or why not?*
  - Yes, nice work.
  - Yes - impressive. My main objective is keeping any noise level down either in the



- park or traffic. I think the trees will help greatly. Not too many - I like the trees!!
  - Yes, it looks like it has something for everyone.
  - Yes, it suits all ages : playground for younger kids, open fields for soccer, etc. for older kids & groups.
  - Yes. Good use for many age groups.
  - I like the present plan.
  - Over and above!
  - Yes, I do, but I thought the playground was going to be closer to the school.
  - No, but I think you have your mind made up.
2. *Are there any important park features missing from the proposed concept plan?*
- Some skateboarding activity spots along the path(s) i.e. rail, or small bowl or hump . . . maybe a feature in the triangular walk where n/s meets east/south.
  - Knolls? "Earth berms". More buffer for noise control. Earth berms on west side please! More trees on west side - gap?
  - No
  - No
  - No!
  - Maybe speed bumps at the safe crosswalks - cars drive fast.
  - Not open enough
3. *What is the most important park feature (that should be included no matter what)? List at least three of your highest priorities, in order of importance (1=most important).*
- 1) trees; 2) basketball; 3) playground w/functional art
  - 1) trees around perimeter & throughout to decrease pathways; 2) playground - rock/granite statues for kids to crawl around on & be natural colors. No "play scapes"; 3) signs in cul-de-sac for no parking
  - 1) playground with functional equipment & lights; 2) benches/picnic area; 3) fountain w/low lighting; 4) informal basketball
  - 1) playground (Tandy Turn park is a great example); 2) Trees (for privacy and mood); 3) open fields
  - 1) trees/natural areas with walking paths & benches; 2) children's play area; 3) basketball
  - 1) trees, plantings; 2) open field; 3) water feature
  - 1) walking trail; 2) landscaping; 3) play field
  - 1) trees; 2) landscaping; 3) openness
  - 1) crosswalks; 2) signs for hours & usage
4. *What park features are least important? List at least three of your lowest priorities, in order of least importance (1 = least important).*
- 1) basketball - rather not have it; 2) public restrooms - neighborhood park - go home if you need to go; 3) playground - unless done with "natural" play things; 4) fountain
  - 1) basketball; 2) fountain/lights (\$\$); 3) "sunken" field
  - 1) basketball area; 2) walking/jogging trail
  - 1) fountain; 2) main play field; 3) informal basketball



- Jogging path; playground
  - Basketball; berms; sunken grades
5. *Would you be interested in participating in a volunteer effort related to the park? What type? (Some possibilities might include tree and shrub planting and care, trail building, care of natural areas, park patrol, etc.).*
- Yes, park patrol, trail building
  - Yes, all of the above.
  - Yes. Tree/shrub planting, planting/maintenance of east entrance flowers?
  - Yes. Planting, trail building
  - Tree, shrub planting, care of natural areas
  - All of the above. Can I be in charge? Just kidding.
  - No - it's up to parks & police
6. *Any other comments?*
- Great job facilitating a diverse group; excellent job putting a diverse plan together
  - Move the "main play field" to the east side & more trees & buffers on west side - more kids live on the east side. I like the zero-depth fountain idea. We have a basketball hoop/pole to donate if you can come and get it.
  - Keep up the good work. It sounds as if you've taken everything into consideration (safety, usability, aesthetics). I am truly impressed w/the current plan and am sorry I missed the first meeting.
  - Parking cars at east and west entrances, being an inconvenience and nuisance to home owners in those areas by blocking access to curbsides
  - I do have a concern about parked cars that are left there all day long. People working at Oakway mall also the snow bus, etc. Should we do a 2-hour parking max?
  - We hope you will maintain this park & it won't create a neighborhood nuisance